## Humpback Whales of Glacier Bay



Why do Humpback Whales come to Glacier Bay? Glacier Bay is a Humpback Whale Sanctuary. Every summer, these 40-ton giants migrate from Hawaii and Mexico to feed in Southeast Alaska's nutrient rich waters. Sometimes feeding 23 hours a day, a single Humpback Whale can consume almost 1/2 ton of food each and every day!

## Research in the Park

Whale biologists study Humpback Whales in Glacier Bay to document the number of individuals, calf production, feeding behavior, and human/whale interactions. This information helps park managers use the latest science to make decisions regarding vessel traffic and noise disturbance in the bay.



## **Vocabulary:**

Endangered species: a plant or animal in danger of extinction.

Threatened species: a plant or animal likely to become an endangered species.

**Migrate:** to move from one place to another.

**Perpetuity:** a thing that lasts forever.

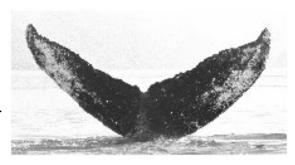
**Sanctuary:** a place of refuge or safety.

## **Photo Identification**

Each whale's tail (flukes) has a distinct, black and white pattern that allows researchers to distinguish individuals.

Under special permit, researchers photograph the flukes and use an online catalog to try to find a match.

Can you find a match on the next page?





Which two humpback whale tails are the same?

List at least three characteristics that helped you make a match.



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Photos courtesy of Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve, taken under scientific research permits issued by the National Marine Fisheries Service